

News notes

Police investigating sex attacks

A joint investigation has been launched after it was discovered the same man is responsible for sex attacks on two boys in Suffolk and Essex.

Suffolk Police revealed April 2 that the same man attempted to rape an 11 year old in Newmarket in September, and then raped a 14 year old near Braintree in March. Samples taken from both crime scenes indicated the same offender carried out both attacks.

"There has always been a concern that this man would attack again," said Detective Superintendent Peter Worobec, Suffolk Constabulary. "He has now done so, and while attacks of this nature are relatively rare, I am concerned that he might strike again."

The attacker is described as being of Mediterranean or mixed race appearance with black hair, in his 20s, 5 feet 8 inches tall, clean shaven and with a nondescript accent associated with people from East Anglia. He was wearing a blue denim jacket and jeans.

Anyone with information about the attacks can call the Incident Room Hotline at (01284) 774170, or call Crimestoppers at (0800) 555111.

Sick call hours changed

The 48th Medical Group sick call hours for Tuesday are from 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. and from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Normal hours are between 7 - 8 a.m. and 12:30 - 1 p.m. weekdays.

The flight surgeon's office holds sick call from 6:30 - 7 a.m. and from 1 - 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

For more information, call Ext. 2193.

Air Force combines upcoming promotion release dates

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFNS) - About 6,000 staff sergeants will find out they were promoted to technical sergeant much quicker than their predecessors since this year's technical sergeant list will be released earlier than ever before.

Historically, the list is usually released the last week of June, but this year it will be released simultaneously with the master sergeant list June 5.

In the past, the two lists were always announced two to three weeks apart, officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here said. The combination of advanced technology and a smaller enlisted force is allowing the service to combine the lists.

Finding out your line number earlier is not the only benefit of the merger. The move also reduces the workload for military personnel flights, officials here say, adding that MPFs and major commands won't duplicate efforts within two weeks of each other to distribute two lists.

AFPC has tested releasing the combined lists and spent extensive time speaking with people throughout Air Force about the proposed change.

Another positive change is that AFPC has established target dates for promotion releases. In previous years, release dates were only announced a week to 10 days prior to release of the lists. Beginning this year the master sergeant and

technical sergeant promotion list will be released on the first Thursday in June and the staff sergeant promotion list the first Wednesday in August.

Because the evaluation board schedule changes every year, center officials are not able to have a set date for the chief and senior master sergeant lists. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Air Force hot line in operation

RANDOLPH AFB, Texas (AFNS) - The Air Force's senior leaders want military and civilian employees to know the service's sexual harassment hotline remains open.

The hot line, set up more than two years ago to receive sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination inquiries, is operated by the Air Force Personnel Center here. The numbers are 1-800-558-1404; DSN 487-7849; or commercial (210) 652-7849. The 800-number is not free from the United Kingdom.

All hot line calls are initially taken by AFPC Call Center operators. Callers with a sexual harassment or discrimination concern are forwarded to a qualified social actions counselor. Counselors ensure callers understand what avenues are available and also ensure complaints are channeled to the proper authority. Counselors answer calls between 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., CST.

After normal duty hours, voice mail is available to leave messages. Counselors return after-hours phone calls at the beginning of the following duty day. For emergencies or when an immediate response is desired, counselors are available 24 hours a day. The call center voice mail will instruct callers how to reach an after-hours counselor. (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

Personnel officials address tuition assistance program

Question: Is the tuition assistance program still being funded in the Air Force?

Answer: Yes, the Air Force strongly supports this benefit.

□ This provides a maximum of 75 percent of up to \$250.00 per semester hour (\$187.50).

□ In fiscal year 1996 the tuition assistance program helped over 92,000 member take 232,000 courses.

□ In fiscal year 1997, Congress contributed an additional \$9.5 million to the tuition assistance program to bring the total to \$60 million available to Air Force members.

Question: I enrolled in the Veterans Education Assistance Program and withdrew my money. Why can't I switch to the Montgomery GIBill?

Answer: In 1996, the law changed to let people who had money in a VEAP account switch to the MGIB. Unfortunately, the law did not cover those enrolled who did not have money in the account. Nor did it cover those who did not choose to enroll at all. Personnel officials are working with the other services to try to make that happen in fiscal 1999.

For more information about the tuition assistance program, call Ext. 3851.

Liberty Warrior

"Can do" person of the week



Photo by SrA. Grace Hunt

A1C Larissa Widdifield

48th Medical Support Squadron

Hometown: Rogers, Ark.

Role in mission: I am a medical materials apprentice and I ensure that the hospital receives supplies so that the base population receives the health care that is needed to carry on their mission.

Hobbies: Soccer, martial arts, dancing and traveling

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Possibly working with the United Nations and raising a family.

What would you do to make things better at RAF Lakenheath? I would open a third gate during "rush" hours on base. It shouldn't take a half-hour to get off base. I would also provide more recycling bins around base - especially for cans.

What is your greatest achievement? Finding my place in the world.

Why did you join the Air Force? I originally enlisted to get military background for the Air Force Academy. I also wanted to get a college education and travel.

Who is your role model and why? My mother. She has a positive attitude and she treats others with kindness. Mary, Queen of Scots, is a close second. She believed in something and followed her heart - no matter what hardships she faced. And, of course, Jesus Christ.

What do you like best about the Air Force? The pride I gain knowing that the U.S. Air Force aids in several humanitarian missions.